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# THE ELEPHANTS

## DIE RÜSSEL-TIERE—PROBOSCIDEA—SSLONN (U)

*(A ZOOLOGICAL MNEMONIC.)*

BY


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(*A Zoological Mnemonic*).

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Proboscidea take a place
Important in the Mammal Race.
Their size has often been remarked
Since first they in life's work embarked.

At times (its very long ago)
No sea 'twixt us and France did flow,
And then, perhaps, but we don't know,
Atlantis Continent did show.
I would exclaim—My how time flies!
There lived some beasts of monstrous size,
Rhinoceri in English dens,
And Elephants in forest glens,
Took shelter from the tropic sun,
Before cold times had quite begun,
Before you find of man a trace,
They'd not found England had that race ;
Or, I'll say, if you don't mind it,
Men were not on earth to find it.
If at this period men had died,
We could not bones be well denied,
Unless their friends collected these,
And brought them home like the Chinese

There are some who, of course, opine,
The world did Britain late define,
And that land patches, great and small,
Have oft been re-adjusted all.
Without a doubt in Eocene,

Sea swept South Eurasia clean,
A Continent, perhaps, emerged,
Whilst other parts did get submerged.
The land then formed large polar cap,
That present land did overlap.
*Then* at the Southern Pole 'tis thought
The Earth a Continent had wrought;
This Continent, perhaps, did send
Arms with America to blend.
Africa, too, and even Ind.,
Were also joined in this queer rind;
Australian land I can add, too,
'Tis easy so, it may be true.
If Forbes is wrong, how came Ostrich
Into four places, separate each;
It may be that 'twould be more prudent
To leave this answer to the student.
A Captain Cook, however smart,
Could scarce trace England on his chart.
Supposing then was such a man
The world of Eocene to scan.

Uintatherium—a figure
Like Rhinocerus, but bigger—
Showed in the times of London Clay,
But in the New World passed its day.
Like river horse in Canine teeth,
More general were the limbs beneath.
Six horns, or cores, adorned the head,
Too much of Ego here is read.
The size, about twelve foot by six,
In Eocene it crossed the Styx;
This beast attained to this great size
Before it paid to "specialize."
'Tis said that ere the beast died out,
From one large form a trunk did sprout;
This, with a change in teeth and toes,
Did elephantine form disclose.

Palm trees now did Europe cover,
Earth was then alive all over ;
In Miocene the land rose out
Of sea, Eurasia round about.
England, North France, and far to East,
The land emerged and then increased ;
But Alps and other Mountains, whiles,
Formed in the Mare Magnum Isles.
Great beasts were also to be seen
In this the age of Miocene ;
And of the type you views command
In Central France and Switzerland.
The elephants you here first see,
Rhinoceri, too, as it should be ;
Besides these two beasts, it is said,
Earth had a stock much varied,
Brontops, the Lambdothere and such
That did with these come much in touch ;
The climate still exceeding warm,
Preceded the much later storm.

In Pliocene North Europe land
Took a most conspicuous stand ;
Whilst some parts kept from ocean peeping,
South Europe 'neath the sea was sleeping.
In Norwich crag of Pliocene
The Hippopotamus was seen ;
Rhinocerus and Mastodon,
The latter's course is long since run.
Elephants had got now plenty,
Species numbered nearly twenty ;
Climate at last was getting cold,
Temperature by shells is told.

In Pleistocene, or time of drift,
If we the veil from Nature lift,
The woolly mammoth comes to view,
And other woolly creatures, too.

Climate, glaciers, fields of snow,
And sea, and ice in berg and floe ;
Interglacial times occurred,
To these life has not much demurred.
Oft subsidence of land took place,
The ocean coming on apace ;
In time the land again appears,
After the lapse, perhaps, of years.

The bones that are in places found,
Deep buried underneath the ground,
In Europe, Asia, and U.S.,
Led to many a curious guess
By the various tribes of men,
To indicate their origin.
And so as everyone does boast
Of evanesced gentil'ty most,
And of an Uncle's Cousin tell,
To whom a rarish fortune fell,
Or of a friend three times removed,
Who well born, brave, or wordy proved ;
Or ancestor, that's long since dead,
Who for the king had lost his head.
[No man would hesitate to claim
A sheep stealer of his own name,
If he lived some centuries back,
And got suspended by the neck.]
'Tis thus the Redmen show with pride
The bones earth can no longer hide ;
They say the Uintatherium bones
The ancestry of Redmen owns,
And the chief grows more defiant,
Thinking his grandsire a giant.
It was of Old World men the fate,
In sixteen blank, no early date,
Bones Mastodon to have shown round
As ancestors. Such giants found
In France caused most intense delight

As signs of prehistoric might.
(A giant nineteen feet in height
Would beat Goliath in a fight).
And so an elephantine bone
Orestes (Greece) was said to own,
Again there was no end of glee
When of Ajax they found the knee.
Mammoth, too, did cause some bother,
And Rhinocerus as other.
And then to add the fossil teeth,
Found Eurasian land beneath,
Were thought to be the real horns
Of many extinct Unicorns.
It was of Chinamen the view,
The Mammoth, which they called *Fynshue*—
Was giant *mouse that kept from sight*,
And died when first it saw the light.

Proboscideans have a head,
The largest as it has been said,
Not in proportion to the size—
Of beasts that one on earth descries.
Then you can see the cause of this
Is to be found herein, I wis;
The head must teeth and trunk upbear,
Important must then size be there;
Two hundred pounds these parts may reach,
Or more, as authors do us teach.
The bones of head are full of air,
Thus size with weight will well compare:
(When shooters think they hit the brain,
They may thus easily be mista'en.)
The frontal bones are so grown out,
And forehead looks so wondrous stout,
That one might fancy the great skull
Of massive brain is nearly full.
The brain, tho' not quite large enough
To fill the skull is *quantum suff.*

To scale seven pounds, or, maybe, more,
A very decent weight to score.
This is the largest weight of brain
In all earth-going Mammal strain.
In man, compared with body weight,
Brain weight seems greatest, let me state;
(One monkey is allowed by fate
Brain *two* for *fifty* body weight.)
With regard to convolutions,
They are fitted for solutions;
Which must concern a beast of mind,
That is for noting facts inclined.

The Snout's prolonged some feet in length,
And this, when measured with its strength
And weight of brain, you're forced to think,
'Tween nose and brain there is a link.
Lycurgus nasal mass could boast,
That measured inches four at most,
A statesman he of great renown,
Made laws to raise and not break down.
Disliked he so much alcohol
He ne'er could bide a vine at all;
In our times and climes he'd hardly
Stop the growth of oats and barley.
Solon, a nose some inches long,
Rendered peculiar in a throng;
And moderns when there's sign of wit,
Oft try to make name Solon fit
Note for making laws his wages—
Solon's one of seven sages.
The Persian Cyrus known to youth,
As one brought up to tell the truth,
Possessed a nose that grew so long,
That picture frames were put quite wron
(If you would try to draw the nose,
As 'tis described by fools or foes).

Cyrus, when Indians he would fight,
Found that the labour was not light.
The elephants stood by their chums—
India the force of Cyrus numbs.
Tho' Cyrus fared not quite so bad
As Babylon's Queen beforetime had.
Later when to Russia pushing,
Campaign ended much less gushing.
The Scythian Queen stood in his way,
That was the end of that affray.
Tomyris Queen has gained renown,
Because she put the Persians down.
She'd their *Northward* move not suffer,
Like the long-nosed beasts, but tougher.
(But Xenophon of course has said
That Cyrus died at home in bed,
After lecturing all his friends
On Socrates his life he ends).
In Babylon, as Ctesias says,
Elephants figured in their plays,
And men to show the strength of these
Got them to shove down cedar trees.
Then Alexander, called the Great,
Was gifted with a nose of state.
You know he did to India roam,
And brought snout beasts from India home.
He'd get for statue equine votes,
His horse he fed on gilded oats.
Pupil of great Aristotle,
He got fonder of the bottle.
Under power of this solvent,
Gave to his regrets their full vent.
"How sad to think the earth's so small,
It did so quick before me fall;
Either earth's right fences wrong are,
Or on earth I'll stay no longer,"
Tho' Greece with Alexander grew,
His years but numbered thirty-two.

Frederic and Bonaparte were one
With the General Wellington
In having noses large and long,
Such as to mind and chest belong.
George Washington did too disclose
His character by length of nose.
By well-marked nasal tones since then,
Which so affect his country men,
We know, when Nature is benign,
She fain would give us hint or sign.

Nose action, colour, size, and shape,
Are said to tell the man from ape.
There is indeed one monkey queer,
Whose nose would well befit a seer.
S. nasalis is such monkey.
Its nose does make one feel funky.
If what I've said has the effect
Of showing nose proves intellect,
Then you can judge by length of snout
No beast an elephant can flout.

The snout, proboscis, trunk, or nose,
Double-barrelled you may suppose,
Has finger organ at its end,
Hard tipped, in grasping made to bend ;
Thus bark or leaves of trees are sought,
And hay up to the mouth is brought.
Hay at each lift is very small :
Two hundred daily added all.
The trunk can lift a blade of grass,
And this to mouth can upward pass.
Beast can with it pick off a fly,
But can *panniculus* apply.
It has to root up trees been put,
A wheel to ease out of a rut,
To use a fan of branch or leaf,
And nurse a child beyond belief.
Then upward water sucks the nose,

And drives it out just like a hose—
Placed over back or mouth therein,
It slakes its thirst or cools its skin ;
And when it would its stomach pump,
Water 's forced up, then sucked by trump.
Trunk, modern word, is for this last ;
'Tis by this tube it makes its blast.
This sound is sign of mirth or joy—
It may in hunger mouth employ
To make a grunt and indicate,
It has an appetite to sate.
Then of anger here's the omen,
Sound is echoed from abdomen.
The trunk's marked off from nasal space ;
A great advantage here we trace,
And is so useful in this beast,
Without its trunk it cannot feast.
The elephant to starve is bound,
Proboscis tube not being sound.
The tusks so often lengthened found,
Would keep the mouth far from the ground,
Or trees on which the creature feeds,
Thus elephant a long snout needs.
The neck's so short it won't allow
The beast to make a proper bow.
In Gardens you will recollect,
Food's often given more direct.
The beast an open mouth oft *shows*,
A biscuit into which one throws ;
The skin is ashy-brown or black,
In wild state mud's upon the back,
Colour of tame beast's not so clear,
Keepers the skin with grease do smear.
The tail of Indian, not too big,
Supplied is with a tuft like pig.
In elephants small are the eyes,
" 'Tis want of language" some one cries :
This beast's indeed so full of wit

That silence is most marked in it,
Then Nature, which no beast defies,
Limits the action of the eyes,
Organs are brilliant without doubt,
But beast can't look straight up or out.
It requires thus ne'er a goggle
Sign to hide of leer or ogle.
Ears being large 'tis quick to hear—
Another sign of wisdom clear.
In darkest jungles ear and nose
Will best detect the lurking foes.

*Sslonn's* height in feet amounts to eight,
Three tons will mark the body weight
Or if you wish the height in hands
It twenty-four at shoulder stands.
Eleven foot elephants of late,
Have grown quite rare, I here may state.
A stumpy foot you also see,
As like testudo as may be,
And in progression it is found
But little raised above the ground.
The radial flexor present here
Has much elastic tissue clear,
So when the beast his leg does lift,
His foot bends back, a nat'ral gift.

Elephants gives us the notion,
Of a steady, sober motion.
If motions are entwined with mind,
And nerves the brain to limbs do bind,
Then if the state of mind you alter
Motion may follow without falter;
And if the state of limb you change,
A thrill must through the brain parts range.
So the Proboscidean pace
Suggests sobri'ty to our race;
The practice of this stately tread
Leads to most noble thoughts it's said;

This word speaks for the Eastern state,
Which learns the elephantine gait.

The elephant is still supposed
To have a kingly soul enclosed,
Of which the human case grew weak,
And had a stronger house to seek.
This leads oft to a homage act
Being paid to elephant direct.
(Other souls find suited places
'Mongst Vulture or the Jackal races.)
The Slonn the Africans call king,
As they assail him in the ring,
And try his mind to much distract
By telling of the murderous act
They did upon his sire commit,
(His grandsire also did submit.)
And thus, by flattery and fear,
They hope to charm the RUSSEL-THIER,
Until a huntsman, no-wise rash,
Slips in behind and makes a gash.
Indian Statues (Art and Science)
Of SSLONN would suggest reliance ;
Siam its patronage does brag,
And places SLONN upon her flag.
The Order of the Elephant
Is highest Denmark e'er can grant.

The structure of this curious beast
Must surely prove a mental feast.
Occiput is high in middle,
Parietals, shaped like fiddle,
Large premaxilla, nasals stout,
Jaw Symphysis is like a spout.
The zygomatic arch is strong,
Jugal to mid-part does belong ;
Large air cells grow in skull and face,
Commence in youth and grow apace,
Into the palate cells they reach,

And ethmo-vomer part we teach.
Tho skull is here so much increased,
The growth of brain case soon has ceased,
Diploe cells may, one can prove,
Skull tables inches twelve out move.
Long cranial cavity one sees,
Cylindrical it is in these ;
The Tentor'um Cerebelli,
Vertical—a fact on dwell I.
Then Occipital's inflated,
'Tween the two, lig. Nuch. instated,
Parietals form most of side—
On frontals which are very wide
Large supra. processes you note,
Post. processes "not worth a groat,"
That don't eye sockets e'er exclude
From the jaw muscle action rude.
The nasal bones are wide and short,
Nasal holes Cetacean sort,
The upturned nasal holes, we know,
A mark of natant mammals show.
Below, and at each side of these,
Here one the Premaxillae sees.
The bent down Premaxillae strong,
Remind us of the strange Dugong.
Upper incisor teeth of last,
Are like those of animals classed
With Rodents and the long-nosed tribe,
Whose structure I do now describe.

When elephants would ford a stream,
They swim quite well, as it would seem ;
But if the river be not deep,
They much prefer their feet to keep
On solid ground, and then protrude
Their trunk from stream, for breathing good.
In front of nares face is square,
Pre and Maxilla both are there.

Both these support the tusks and teeth,
That reach so many feet beneath.
Lachrymal's in the orbit small,
The nasal space you sigmoid call.
Pterygoids Alisphenoids join,
And some teeth sockets help to line
Help to case last upper molar,
Of rest Maxillae cases sole are.
Then, it is not to be denied,
Squamus forms part of skull at side,
The Frontal does squamosal meet,
Where Ex. Meatus has its seat.
The Tympanic joins the Otic
(Pro-opistho-epi-otic).
Bulla's not prominent but wide ;
Carotid notches this inside.
Much otic shows in cranial space,
For *flocculus* there is a face.
The Mastoid part is very small,
Not seen in inside part at all.
Process. parocciput there's none,
Post glenoid process there's not one.
Hy-tympanic at base is seen,
Tympan. exocc. squamous between.
Styl. mast foramen's outside this ;—
For the Facial nerve it is.
No Condyle hole has Hind-head bone,
Nor Alisphenoid hole does own.
The nerves through this do never go,
But close to bone, of course, they show.
In front, rotund foramen find ;
Foramen ovale behind.
Mandible Ramus here is high,
On rounded Condyle fix your eye,
This wider is from side to side
Than front to back, at once decide.
No angle ever here projects,
Coronoid little size affects.

Strong is the dental part of this:
The weight of teeth the reason is.
(Condyle of Rodents far does reach,
From front to back we always teach.
Condyle of Carnivor not wide,
Is greatly stretched from side to side.
Where this does on the skull impinge,
There is a very well-marked hinge.
Condyle in Ungulates is round,
And this is best for grinding found.)
The stylo-hyal forked above—
Larger the back-part here does prove.
Ligaments these to Hyoid bind ;
Hyoid joins Thyro-hyal find.

Fossa post scapular is great,
Anterior small, at any rate.
The glenoid borders short in such,
Prominent spine is here to touch
In Scapula, that in the beast
Gives marks that are in some increased,
A Mid. spin. proc. Acrom. bent back,
This feature does no rodent lack.
No Clavicles are present here,
Progression thus is all the freer.
(When Front limbs dexterous do show,
Then Collar bones in beasts do grow).
The Coracoid is round and small,
'Tis well that it is here at all.
Ridge Supinator, large to suit,
Radius across the Ulna's put.
The Carpal end of Ulna grows,
And larger than the Radius shows.
The upper Carpals number three,
The lower four, no central see.
Four digits are the hands upon,
Hoofs three or four are fixed thereon.

Pelvis a human look has got,

The surfaces deny it not.
These facts and others strongly told
In favour of the statement bold,
That once lived men of triple size,
That did their bones to earth devise.
Iliac faces broadened are,
The sacral ditto's smaller far.
Ilia forward look in line,
Which we regard as human sign.
The femur here is straight and long,
Large angle does to this belong.
The great Trochanter is but small,
Small one you scarcely see at all.
Then here's an elephantine point,
No teres band is in hip joint.
Fibula (complete and slender,
Free, large lower end), does render
The leg less like a cow or horse,
Rather more dexterous of course ;
The foot in elephants is short,
Lateral digits in this sort,
The odd toes ungulates approach,
On whose domain they much encroach.
Astragalus, that's flat we state,
With Cuboid don't articulate,
The carpal first is down produced,
In tarsal first like is induced.

The vertebrae that are in neck
Are thin and hollow at the back,
Opisthocoelous such you name,
A word that's not unknown to fame.
The vertebrae here seem to be
Thinnest that we in mammals see,
To the neck vertebrae ascribe
The thinnest discs of mammal tribe.
Neck clothed in flesh, head stands confessed
In close relation with the chest,

Elephants heart it may be said
Is always near the mouth or head,
[This is not why they neighbours serve,
Nor does it prove a want of nerve.]
In man, comparing breadth with length,
Similar reasoning gains strength,
And is of these two thoughts the fount,
Late dinners and a bank account ;
That width of wisdom is the teller
Has been held proved since Mr Weller.
Back vertebrae here reach a score,
The lumbar three and sacral four,
Tail vertebræ are thirty-one,
In these the Chevron-bones are none.

Masto-humeral muscles go
From skull above to arms below.
At shoulders you the tendons find
Which Deltoid to Trapezius bind.
Of Clavicle there is no trace—
This tendon is found in its place.
Small Pect'ral, which the parts disclose,
To Supraspinous Fascia goes.
Biceps has got no Coracoid head,
Dors. epitroch is present said.
You'd not know Pronator Teres
In place of flesh a Tendon here is.
There is a little flesh below,
But chiefly tendon here does show.
The Radial Carpal Flexor here
Is fibrous yellow tissue clear.
Radio Carpus is to seek—
Always present, never weak.
Sterno-Maxillaris marches
From breast to jaw zygom-arches.
The tusks are great incisor teeth—
Two above and none beneath.
They start from Premaxilla bold,

And reach Maxilla in the old.
A large pulp space is always there—
Ivory thus may bullets bear.
From constant pulps tusks always grow—
How long 'tis very hard to know.
Enamel tipped at first they are,
But use does this wear off or mar;
African's teeth are so much sought
The Loxodon will soon be nought.
Natives no actions think too bad,
If pairs of tusks are to be had;
They cut a tendon of the foot,
Of the poor beast they wish to loot.
Him wearied and foot-sore and ill,
They watch until it's time to kill;
And then the murdered's tusks they seize,
And leave the beast to eat who please.
They like a portion of the flesh,
And they can use it dried or fresh;
The Europeans like the foot,
The rest their stomachs does not suit.
The ears for trucks or skips they use,
No time in sewing's here to lose;
The fat again the natives brave
For oiling purposes do save.
The ants, perhaps, devour the most,
Africa has of these a host;
The tusks are seven feet in length,
Weight sixty pounds shows each tooth's strength.
The two have reached three fifty pounds,
To think this common there's no grounds;
Old Indian males good tusks have got,
Of value female's tusks are not.
But Afric females have these good,
'Cause tropic heat is understood;
Tusks are secreted by the males,
Because the milk secretion fails.
Ceylon has, you must note with care,

Tusked elephants but very rare;
We come to speak of molar teeth,
Twelve are above and same beneath;
All compound teeth these represent,
Or simple teeth joined by cement,
Then as regards enamel folds
They're simply transverse as one holds;
But we find that the Afric beast
In lozenges the crown has creased,
In Mammoth from the Pleistocene
Outer and inner crease is seen;
Whilst Mastodon had ridges cross,
The teeth perhaps 'tween pig and horse,
No canine are in either jaw,
The teeth obey the Rodent law.
Now tho' in elephant the teeth
Show twelve above and twelve beneath,
Only four pairs, or, maybe, two,
At once, have grinding work to do.
Formulæ have been designed
To note what folds in teeth you find
You only folds complete here check,
Counting the teeth from front to back.
When the males to work are put
The tusks are sawn off near the root.

The tongue (two feet) though long 'tis thought
Is not much into action brought.
Parotid glands are large enough,
In others there's not much gland stuff.
The pharyngeal pouch you see
To snout beasts must of great use be,
It lies close to the root of tongue,
Large muscles to it do belong.
And from stomach water welling
Trunk's out pumping is most telling.
If mouth be closed and pouch contract,
Water through nose and trunk may act.

The pouch of some a pint contains,
This stomach fills up and maintains.
The stomach simple, three feet long—
Pyloric valve is here quite strong—
The small intestine sixty feet ;
The large near thirty, you can see it ;
Coecum two feet, and just as wide,
From Colon small gut does divide—
Lymph glands are on Meso-Colon
No fat Mesentery whole on.
And singular indeed it's that
Beasts, Indian, are so free of fat.
(Miall on soles of hands and feet
Did fat and nowhere else thus meet).
Two lobes has liver, larger right
No G.B. is here in sight—
Bile duct is widened at its end,
Pancreas duct to this does trend,
Pancreas does not reach the spleen,
'Tis thus like many others seen.
The Pancreas three pounds, one says,
Full thirty pounds the liver weighs.
Spleen broad and flat does intervene,
And vein blood pressure keeps a mean ;
The common way, when there's a feast,
Pressure in veins is much increased.
You find then here two pounds of spleen,
And kidneys each as big I ween ;
Eight lobes in kidneys each you see,
Adrenals three ounce each may be.
Then Aristotle says the gut
Is in elephants so put
That it suggests here stomachs four,
But stomach's like a pig's much more.
Fallopian tubes a foot you trace
To two-horned *Uterus* joined at base,
Body of this, six inch in length,
Has got a wall that's marked with strength,

Some give egg tubes as one foot six,
Vagina at nine inch you fix—
Genito-urinary view
Both passages are joined thereto,
Fifty inches is the size,
Clitoris two feet one descries.
The testes in abdomen stay
The *Mammæ* 'tween fore legs we say,
Or Mammæ two and pectoral,
Genital gland is temporal,
Which lies between the eyes and ear,
'Tis for another's nose placed here.
Aorta gives innominate
From which Carotids two we state,
And right subclavian, but the left
From arch, which is of first bereft.
Anterior Cavae are here two,
Trachea thirty rings in view ;
Two sem'nal vesicles no more,
Of Prostates here we mention four.
Here the *Placenta* forms a zone,
Deciduate, a type well known ;
Gestation twenty months one knows,
Young suck with mouth, and not with nose.
Cerebrum here which cannot hide
Small brain, that's (front to back) so wide,
Weighs near six pounds in this great race,
You gyri many here can trace.
These characters that get no vent
On tablets or a monument,
Form a list so odd and truthful
(Beast of virtue is, in sooth, full)
That this long Latin catalogue
To mind of Slonn's an Analogue
(You note that of the marks quite half
Are written like an epitaph.)

We're told by India's wisest sages

That in the early bygone ages,
When Brahma moulded mother Earth
Out of the stuff that gave her birth,
He placed her on the back of *tortoise*,
Steady movement was his *purpose*—
Tho' the beast (great sized) was able,
Location seems t'have been unstable ;
An elephant then took its place,
Upon the vaulted carapace.
And on its back the world was flung ;
On Wisdom's back the world was hung—
Pythagoreans thus would save
Their race's cradle and its grave.
And thought in number that they found
Nature's Talisman, rhythm and sound.
[From numbers (rhythm) one should sublime,
The essence of Progression Time,
The Residue won't yield its place,
Essence of fixture this is space.]

Now as we find beneath the soil
Remains of Pliocene turmoil.
Tortoises of wonderous size,
'Mongst which tribe elephantine lies,
These do either Earth up bear,
Or else the Earth supports them *there*.
The fact is, neither statement's true,
A drawing force does both imbue,
Whilst Atlas holds the earth being lower,
The Earth hold him its well-known more,
Just as the man, who caught the Tartar
Did his freedom lightly barter,
He'd have brought his prisoner so ;
But Tartar would not let him go.
So man, that has oft tried to fly,
Finds Earth his efforts does defy,
E'en when he mounts with beating heart,
The Earth declines with him to part.

Yet, beside the hard dry force,
There's the Organic kind of course ;
Which, tho' its work goes oft with waste,
Proves Nature is not straitly laced.
What would our world of rock be then,
Without its elephants (and men).

Brave Bacchus, at an early date,
Did snout beasts tame, so people state
Trained them to harness better far
Than making tigers draw his car.
Bacchus, vig'rous god of wine,
Had skill the future to divine,
And with Apollo he has shared,
The Delphian Oracle we've heard
For learning, also, let us say,
He was distinguished, in a way.
Inventions, hidden facts, and such,
Unlocked their doors when he did touch.
The zeal for knowledge, by him fired,
Led to new truths for man acquired.
He practised too the healing art,
And in protecting trees took part.
Then of the scenic stories he
Was good a patron as could be.
He seems to have encouraged rhyme :
It goes without him in our time.
[And tho' he's madman called by Homer,
Blindness (?) accounts for that misnomer.]
Lycurgus saw with much alarm
That wine to men is fraught with harm,
Declined to let his garden grow
The tree that Bacchus lovèd so.
He did not see that into good,
The foulest evil may intrude ;
So planted was the cheerful vine,
Of life and light the constant sign ;
And then the elephant was tamed,
The largest beast on land that's named ;

But odd'st of all I have to tell
Wine's by these creatures liked so well
That they ne'er appear so frisky
As when they hope to get some whisky.
Then many have the story heard,
That to hob-nob they've even dared ;
The cause of this must sure be sought,
In gratitude for being taught.
[Bacchus, perhaps, is badly rated,
Because he was with charms so sated ;
He was the cause of many sighs,
And much wandering of the eyes,
And so the men of that day scold,
They felt so left out in the cold.]

Elephas Indicus we name
The Eastern type of giant frame,
Which was well known in olden times,
And found of use in tropic climes.
Indians employed this beast in war,
And on its back they placed a car,
This, waggon-like, was made to hold
Some thirty men full armed we're told ;
These squads, of course, did danger heighten,
Their aspect did much more to frighten.
Semiramis, Assyrian Queen,
To conquer India was most keen,
This Empress had the greatest fear
Of India's famous Russel-Tier.
She tried, indeed, an odd device,
Which for herself did not end nice—
Ox skins were fashioned out and sewed
So that they Slonn-like figures showed,
On camels' backs stuffed skins were tied,
By draping the disguise was tried,
But spies to Indians told of these,
And so betrayed Semiramis ;
The lady found that Indian men

Could be relentless even *then*.

Till modern times not much was known
About the proper Indian Slonn,
The use to man is now to tell,
And how Slonn serves his master well.
The beast with breast-strap land does plough
As easy as we make a bow.
They draw their carts with so much ease,
As horses three keep moving these ;
Shoving with head they exercise
A force that no one would despise.
As builders they in Art excel,
They carry stones and lay them well.
In doing this they're quite expert,
And much intelligence exert ;
If good stone is to them denied,
The fact they are inclined to hide.
Piling boxes, sacks or timber,
Would make beasts feel shy that slim were,
But this they do as if they meant
To show it was for work they're sent.
In mountaineering they keep cool,
Tho' not, of course, so good as mule,
They always grope the safest place
Before progressing on a pace ;
And though the legs much weight do bear
Tumbling with them is very rare,
So going up or coming down
The elephant is not a clown.
When ground is steep he cuts the hill,
As horse with load keeps doing still ;
A Slonn can move, man on its neck,
With full two tons upon its back.
A beast can on a tree block stand
When keeper gives to him command,
Thus on a narrow foot square space
An elephant can rest with grace.

With a Howdah on his back
No one would e'er for danger reck,
Safe here from tigers you enjoy
Pleasure that scarce has an alloy ;
Hunting the tiger in this way,
Has much excitement for a day,
The open air, the undulation,
And then the strangely odd location,
Add to snake secreting jungle
With its busy insect bumble.
Delight blood-speeding knows no mar,
Danger's so near and yet so far.
The elephants are trained to this
By seeing what stuffed tiger is.
Intelligence you always find
Of rarest nature in this kind.
The length of nose, the size of front—
The quiet air that bears the brunt
Of searching queries, pokes of fun,
And steady work till all is done.
All to observing minds suggest
A mind at philosophic rest.
Here altruistic virtues see,
A wounded friend attend will he ;
And when life is no longer there
The beasts their friend will oft inter ;
And to the Russel-Tiers belong
The finest sense of right and wrong,
Injustice, injury, or slight,
They will resent with all their might.
(When Slonns resent an ugly act,
Does this show power to abstract ?)
Transporting timber log by log
Upon its tusks thus jog by jog,
Or cannon perched upon its back
(Weight-bearing power he does not lack)
Or moving in a jungle dense
Requires a force that is immense.

Proboscidean always shows
He's willing to do all he knows,
And if he stands he has a look
Of one who has laid down his book,
Left off his spex to rest his eyes,
This beast does look so very wise.

Some elephants are born near white,
Albinoes see with little light,
There is no pigment in the skin,
Or Membrane Retinal within.
This want of pigment so absurd
In ferret happens, rat, and bird—
We sometimes men albinoes find
These, Blackmen think uncanny kind.
Whiteness there suggests great evil,
As black with us enshrouds the devil.
So swart man makes albinoes friends
Who'll stand to him when life he ends.
White elephants are prized by kings,
Their praises much the poet sings.
The beast that thus no colour shows
Gains friends and loses all his foes.
To work such beasts would be too much,
There's leisure dignified for such.
Their stalls are made in richest way
An Oriental can essay.
Ivory, carving, silk and gold,
With silver troughs for food, we're told.
And then the food, fruit, rice, and canes,
Indeed, the best the land contains—
Clothing and trappings, silk and wool,
Of gold embroid'ry nearly full—
Perfumes, bright colours, also sweets,
The Proboscidean gladly greets.
All these cups of pleasures full are
Of the beast that's lost its colour.
Such prize presented by a prince

Would make the man that's got it wince,
And being bound to show respect
His household suffers in the act.
A common beast in Ceylon found
Is worth, well say, one hundred pound.
I doubt if you could easily find
A white for double, to your mind.
The step of elephant so neat,
And then the way he lifts his feet,
Acquired must be by ladies, so,
Or else the step of Flamingo.
Birds and beasts are just such walkers
As go with thinkers, not with talkers,
When Mahmoud (Driver) would ascend
His beast, he makes his knees to bend,
He says Beit! Beit! when this he'd mean,
Then beast upon his knees is seen.
In Shakspeare's works 'tis sad to see
That elephants don't bend the knee:
In sleeping this is often true,
But waking they give man his due.
It is not anywhere denied
They like their *aqua* modified,
C two, H six, and O would seem
To make the elephants to beam.
Of sugar canes and such sweet stuff,
The Rüssel-Tier gets scarce enough.
A method that is used by man,
To overcome the long nosed clan,
Is giving poisoned sugar canes,
They thus can spoil the beasts remains.
In Sumatra this art prevailed,
It has for want of *game* now failed.
In India, as a skilled Jack Ketch,
The law an elephant does fetch,
And he is taught to break the neck
Or legs of brutes he must attack,
Or with his tusks the man impales

Who in discharge of duty fails.
(Punishments less quaint, but solid,
Western methods, are now followed.)
In taking el'phants some use pits,
Size four by eight, same depth near fits;
At bottom then is placed a stake,
Which trappers there do firmly make.
Over the mouth some boughs are strewed,
And leaves, and turf, and sweetest food,
And then fine flowers that are imbued
With perfume that makes pleasant mood—
The elephant tempted by the scent,
Expects he knows for what it's meant,
He ne'er expects that flower or leaf
Can e'er be meant to beast deceive,
Tranquillity do all such breathe,
And Bacchus, Ceres, Venus wreathe,
(If ever flowers insects use,
They give them sugar as their dues.)
Beast treads upon the treach'rous ground,
The pit the elephant does pound,
The stake the beast at once impales,
Deceit thus over strength prevails,
Some Indians thus do catch the beast,
To get his tusks and have a feast,
Another method is pursued,
Which is, to say the least, most rude,
Men drive a spike into the foot,
A mode not manly at the root,
But this the natives also do
On creeping up their quarry to.
Following shows the proper course,
And is of tame ones chiefest source,
A giant forest pound is made,
And stakes and cross-bars round it laid.
Projecting from each stake or post
Inwards a beam that threatens most,
However men the posts connect,

In daylight these the beasts respect,
By torches, shouts, that sort of thing,
A herd (fifteen) they try to bring
Into the pound thro' opening wide
Left in the fence at driving side.
Then having got inside their prey,
To tame the beasts they do essay,
The elephants make to get out,
But find they can't without a doubt;
And then a Koomkie (female friend)
To tame the others aid does lend.
On Koomkie's back the tamer goes
Into the pound, and then he shows
His skill by fastening round the neck
A rope on beast he would attack.
They get a rope that's strong enough
To hold a beast, however tough,
They try to change the dangerous mood,
By first depriving each of food;
Then their way they try to see
The beast to tether to a tree;
The neck and legs are then make fast,
And thus the taming is compassed.
A stall round beast they upwards raise,
And fasten platforms there with stays;
By starving, patting, coaxing here
He can in time be let go freer.
(Of course, the strength of stall is tried
By elephant that is inside.)
He yields at last, and man he gives
The best of service while he lives;
I should have said, when first he's tied
He rolls and struggles far and wide.
You can for tamer's safety vouch
If 'neath the Koomkie he does crouch,
He on the back finds safety there,
He's under proboscidean care.
With the protection thus enjoyed,

There's no risk of being destroyed ;
Then one by one each pounded beast
Yields up to man, his struggles ceased ;
The female friends, where'er they can,
Prove faithful helps to hunting man.
The Koomkie in a forest wild
Will coax a " rogue " just like a child,
The " rogue," a single male that's free,
In which few social traits you see.
The Koomkie brings him to a tree,
Where tamer fixes rope with glee,
And if the tree's not strong enough,
The Koomkie gets a tree more tough.
Thus elephants, however rude,
Of sulky, savage, quarr'lsome mood,
To the Koomkie's coaxing yield,
And thus their mental faults get healed.
Tame elephants may be to fear
At times, when they get somewhat " queer,"
Confinement, scanty food, and rest,
Will mental quietude give best.

The points of elephants, of course,
Are not so many as in horse ;
The skin is soft, the mouth is red,
Expanded full then is forehead.
The ears are large, and shape is square,
The trunk is blotched in front and bare ;
Eyes kindly light, and large the cheek,
Neck full, and level back you seek.
Chest square, convex are arms, and short,
Hind quarters plump, no nails abort,
The nails are smooth, elastic, round,
And five in number reach the ground.
The skin gets darkened oft with oil,
This must not then one's judgment foil,

El. Indicus has got ears small,
These large in Africans we call.

El. Africanus we surmise
Excels the Indian one in size,
Indian's forehead is much flatter,
For huntsmen, this a serious matter.
In Africanus it is plain
Bullets don't easily reach the brain ;
Five hoofs in front and four behind
Are found in beasts of Indian kind,
In Africanus you do see
Four hoofs in front, behind but three.
To molar teeth with rhomboid marks,
In African the student harks.

Pyrrhus brought elephants from far,
'Twas he that taught the Romans war.
(Were not the beasts with which he fought
From those that Alexander brought ?
Perhaps the same, for all we know,
Interval, fifty years or so ;
From observation it appears
A Sslonn may live two hundred years.)
Libyan ones the Alps across
Hannibal brought and suffered loss,
El. Africanus found it hard
Its food and habits to discard,
And so disease, much more than strife,
Made many creatures yield their life.
(Tame elephants, I might say all,
Harness straps are apt to gall,
The food, the skin, hard roads, the feet,
And murrain, too, the beasts defeat.)
At Zama (Carthage) by a ruse,
Combat, 'twas shown, they might refuse,
The Romans caused each beast to funk
By shying lances at his trunk.
The elephants did backward rush,
And caused 'mongst their own friends a crush ;
The Rüssel-Tier, indeed, takes care

Of the great trunk that he does wear,
Facing foes, being upwards thrown,
A wound of trunk is seldom known.
You would on trees find danger least
If you're molested by this beast ;
On foot, and single, you'll be wise
To see that you don't meet surprise.

African Elephants were used
In Rome, where folks were much amused
At the sight of giant creatures
Showing human mental features.
Germanicus, who gained *applause*
By furthering the Roman cause
Must to Naturalists stand near,
Because he taught the Riissel-Tier.
The elephants were made to act,
These never lost the stage effect,
But marched to time upon the stage,
And in a dance did then engage,
And when the music strains were o'er
They still beat time upon the floor.
Again, a banquet was spread out
With couches that were soft but stout,
Six males then in full dress walk in,
Six females also did jog in,
All lie down upon the couches,
The Historian for this vouches,
Elephants most abstemious proved,
As it sagacious beasts behoved—
Spears elephants were made to hurl,
And round the same their trunks to curl,
And truthful Pliny also talks
Of ropes on which the great beast walks.
Then, again, on four ropes stretched
Four elephants a comrade fetched ;
And Pliny says, and others prove,
The Rope-walkers could backward move.

Whilst at rope dancing they showed bright,
They could like Gladiators fight.
(Pleasure was *less* dearly bought
When Christians in Arena fought.)
To play at ball or throw a stick,
And catching such one must be quick,
But elephants all this could do,
Uncork a bottle, drink it too,
Cymbals play with trunk and knees,
Measuring melody with these ;
Another says, I think he's wrong,
That at ball playing *Sslonns* showed strong,
Throwing balls to one another,
Trunks did things that give us bother.
Ælian says, which is still better,
An elephant could form a letter,
Figure shown, so that he knew it,
Beast the chalk then took and drew it.
*Anguimanus*, name for nose,
Good title is you may suppose,
The fifty thousand muscles here
Can make the *Snake hand's* action freer.
All sorts of tricks the Romans taught,
Oft for their keepers pence were sought,
The coin was rendered to the sneezer
More gladly than was tax paid Cæsar.
[Of course, you've noticed in our day,
A blind man's dog gets help this way,
But latter pence takes with his teeth,
Or basket tied his head beneath.]
Perhaps nought causes so much fear
As barking dogs to Rüssel-Tier,
The pigs again stand out confessed
As beasts the elephants detest—
'Tis odd, considering their size,
But triffles do distract the wise,
The elephants will never tread
On friends or foes, it has been said ;

On dogs it would not use its rüssel,
But 'tween its legs it these does hustle,
Dogs kicked about thus, to and fro,
Must soon their life a yielding go.

Tho' old Germanicus had shown
How clever was the Libyan *Sslonn*,
Interest does in things collapse,
When tyranny or weakness saps.
Indolence at first did kill
The hopeful earnestness of will,
Savages, finding Romans weak,
In culture scorned great strength to seek,
In Roman art and excellence,
Of strength they saw but faint pretence ;
So tho' they indolence did floor,
In doing this they spoiled much more.
Never, indeed, since these old days,
Have men e'er cared to learn the ways
Of Africa's great Rüssel-Tier,
That seems now bound to disappear.
No longer people are the same,
Nor Eleph. Africanus tame,
For men long since have thought misplaced
Such work where tusks go so to waste.
Whilst for their teeth their lives they take,
The Slonns must soon us sure forsake—
The heaps of tusks that yearly sell
Of thousand slaughtered creatures tell.
" Pity 'tis that brave explorers
Could not be prestige restorers
To the once famous Loxodon
That formerly such glory won.
Could a Sindbad not discover
Where they lie, life being over,
Thus modern tastes to neutralise
Without so great a sacrifice."
The ardent Philo elephant

Omits some facts, amongst this cant,
In savage minds there is a seat
For mental *forms* of things to eat ;
In groups post-civilised you ne'er
Find mirrored much that they can't wear,
Animal types for these must fade,
That are not suited for parade,
The weighty tusks and body growth,
Makes *Sslonn* obnoxious thus to both.
Stomach's the lord of all the Pres—
To ears, eyes, tongue, the Posts do *freeze*.
(There is, indeed, much tusk in head,
Which there, of course, the jaws imbed.)

Of ancient forms I wish to tell,
Where we name elephant can spell,
Deinotherium's tusks below
Downward from lower jaw did grow.
The weight of jaw, it's understood,
Led Owen to say it lived in mud
Or water, tusks would serve it thus
Much as eye-teeth do serve Walrus.
The Deinotherium's first seen
In the Mid-Europe Miocene,
The Mastodons in earth have been
Since early times of Miocene.
Hence to the Pleistocene they reach,
And continuous record teach,
Some, like Mastodon Arvensis,
Found in Europe easy thence is
To trace to East, and further still
See M. American you will.
Arvensis find in Norwich Crag,
There of this beast we have to brag.
(Now all these have the molar teeth,
And Pre M's, ridged above and 'neath.)
The *Mastodon*, called *longirostris*,
Tusks in lower jaw it fosters—

Of course, there's tusks in all above,
These elephantine marks all prove ;
Some like the M. Angustidens
You find in Miocenic dens.
The Pleistocene Ohio kind,
Enlarging Eastwards as you find,
Giganteus it has been named,
The largest Mastodon e'er framed—
(From Eurasian first abode
By a North Pacific road,
Many creatures made their way,
And having found it made a stay—
Causeway in part or whole removed,
Sea effectual barrier proved)
America's so with bigness blamed,
We're nearly all made quite ashamed,
With Mississippi as a river,
Andes heights that make one shiver,
With lakes, the biggest ever seen,
And plains that make the old world mean,
This island does appear so small,
It seems odd that it counts at all.
There, trees, again, are made so big,
Our best compared's scarce worth a fig,
If these plants have sorely hipped us,
We take pride in Eucalyptus,
The Australian giant tree,
You greater height scarce ever see,
Tho' Niagara's not beat easy,
But see Africa's *Zambesi.*
Bull frogs, Boas, Alligators,
Lizards all of giant natures,
Bisons, Buffaloes so big !
Tho' so like our cows in rig,
All the New World's power attest
When shining's done to shine the best.
So Mastodon of Pleistocene
Was largest in the west land seen.

One Elephant, El. Clifti called,
Has teeth with ridges marked installed,
Premolars too, a fact which seems
To tell of Mastodonic dreams.
El. Planiformis, Indian type,
That in the Pliocene grew ripe,
Fifteen feet fully reached in height
Before it vanished out of sight.
Meridional (English Crag,)
Like elevation had to brag,
If I'm right to El. Insignis
Also Nature was benignus—
But later see in Maltese rocks,
(Pleistocene) a beast that mocks,
El. Melitensis clearly shows
A three-foot pigmy form one knows.
(Where Nature extreme cold has launched,
Beasts are stunted, furred, and blanched,
When tropic heat to Nature harks
Colour and bigness one remarks.)
Namadicus of larger size
Has got long ridges o'er the eyes,
El. Columbi, West Pleistocene,
Like Antiquus seems t'have been.
The Mammoth lived in Pleistocene,
Wandering the Glacial times between,
Dodging about amongst the ice,
Then far too common to be nice.
Old England was its country then,
And it lived where then lived men,
This place, at times, land did connect
With Belgium, you will recollect,
Mammoths everywhere abounded,
Thro' old world their trump resounded.
Woolly Rhinocerus was there,
Like Mammoth it was clothed with hair,
With two large horns upon its nose,
Much like a modern type it shows—

The Pleistocene then disburses
Carnivor spelaeus ursus,
Bear, of which the bones are found
With horse et. c. beneath the ground,
Then elks gigantic that had horns,
No modern types such e'er adorns.
Mammoth lived in later times,
In farthest North and Arctic climes,
Covered with wool to keep it warm,
It quite out lived the Arctic storm.
Near Lena's mouth, concealed by mud,
Are found the Mammoths where they stood
When caught amongst low lying fens,
They had no time to seek their dens,
But were encased in ice and snow,
In times so very long ago.
The beasts when thawed were found so fresh
That men and beasts devoured their flesh,
The tusks are long and much bent round,
And hair is long and brownish found.
Fir leaves and cones in stomach seen
Seem to the proper food have been—
In France, in caves of Pleistocene,
Are Mammoth's bones with Human seen.
Reindeers, too, and bones of bears,
With these the modern type compares.
Curious 'tis that here you see
The first of human drawing free--
On Mammoth tusk a Mammoth shown,
As well as can be drawn on bone ;
Two reindeers on slate slab fighting,
Figures you'd not not feel like slighting ;
Nor does one here require a line
To tell the picture or design.
Then there are others, all suggest
A power to mimic things at rest.
(A glutton thus which might be freer,
An ibex head, a horn of deer.)

Perhaps some swain whose heart was big
With hope of having help to dig
His plot of ground, or milk his deer,
Or, maybe, e'en his Mammoth steer,
Or help himself to weave with care
A garment warm of Mammoth hair,
Did think that he could best provoke
Some kindred thoughts before he spoke,
And did a valentine present
Of Mammoth tusk with wishes blent,
Or trembling then 'tween hope and fear,
He'd send a picture of a deer.
Such pictures might suggest a clew
To lines of thought that he'd pursue.
He could again, thus easily give
A notion of how she should live,
And the lady he'd encourage
Much to think of hope in storage.
You will, indeed, incline to think
That following up to swim or sink
He'd don his untanned hide of sheep,
Take care his face with woad to steep,
And mount his Mammoth or his horse,
His stone axe he'd sling on, of course,
And then he'd purchase market price,
For beasts, the maid for whom he sighs.

Weapons that are with Mammoth found
Are rough and chipped (but later ground).
With such chipped stones from reeking beasts
Men hagged the food used at their feasts,
The smaller ones were used in chase—
They'd courage beasts with such to face,
With them, perhaps, man got enough,
To save his life when living rough.

1895. R. J. A.